

AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS:

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application:

Listing of Claims:

Claim 1 (Currently amended): An agglutination assay method for ~~quantitatively~~ quantitative determination of an analyte in an aqueous liquid sample using particles bearing an anti-analyte, the anti-analyte being capable of specifically binding to the analyte so as to cause agglutination of the particles, comprising:

providing a mixture of said particles and a non-fluid substance which retains said particles while suppressing the diffusion of said particles;

contacting said mixture with a ~~solving~~ solution agent for increasing the fluidity of the non-fluid substance in said mixture;

contacting the sample with said mixture to cause the agglutination of the particles in said mixture; and

measuring the extent of the agglutination of the particles to determine the amount of the analyte in the sample.

Claim 2 (Original): The method according to claim 1, wherein said solution agent is supplied to said mixture together with the sample.

Claim 3 (Original): The method according to claim 1, wherein said mixture constitutes a film ^{and wherein} said solution agent and the sample are applied to the film, and the agglutination caused in the ^{film} ~~membrane~~ is detected.

Claim 4 (Original): The method according to claim 1, wherein said mixture constitutes a film superimposed on a water permeable layer containing said solution agent, and wherein the sample is applied to the water permeable layer so that the sample is transferred to the film together with said solution agent.

Claim 5 (Original): The method according to claim 1, wherein said particles are latex particles.

Claim 6 (Original): The method according to claim 1, wherein said particle ^{is} ~~is a~~ colloidal metal and the degree of the agglutination of the particles is detected from a change in color tone of the colloidal metals caused by the agglutination.

Claim 7 (Original): The method according to claim 6, wherein said particle ^{are} ~~is a~~ colloidal gold or colloidal silver.

Claim 8 (Original): The method according to claim 1, wherein said non-fluid substance is a saccharide and said solution agent is a glucosidase.

Claim 9 (Original): The method according to claim 1, wherein said non-fluid substance is a polysaccharide and said solution agent is a glucosidase.

Claim 10 (Original): The method according to claim 9, wherein said polysaccharide is a starch derivative.

Claim 11 (Original): The method according to claim 1, wherein said analyte is an antigen and said anti-analyte is an antibody.

Claim 12 (Currently amended): A dry analysis element for determining an analyte in an aqueous liquid sample as defined in claim 4 which comprises a film and a water permeable layer ~~as described in claim 4~~.

Claim 13 (Currently amended): A dry analysis element for ~~quantitatively~~ quantitative determining an analyte in an aqueous liquid sample by measuring the extent of agglutination of particles bearing an anti-analyte, the anti-analyte being capable of specific binding to the analyte to cause the agglutination of said particles, comprising:

a non-fluid medium layer composed of a non-fluid substance which retains said particles bearing the anti-analyte therein while suppressing the diffusion of said particles; and

a water permeable layer which is superimposed on said non-fluid medium layer and contains a solation agent being capable to increasing the fluidity of the non-fluid substance;

whereby, when the sample is applied to the water permeable layer, said solation agent transfers to the non-fluid medium layer from the water permeable layer together with the sample and increases the fluidity of said non-fluid substance to cause the agglutination of the particles in the non-fluid medium layer.

Claim 14 (Original): The dry analysis element according to claim 13, wherein said particles are latex particles.

Claim 15 (Original): The dry analysis element according to claim 13, wherein said particle is a colloidal metal and the extent of the agglutination is detected from a change in color tone of the colloidal metal caused by the agglutination.

Claim 16 (Original): The dry analysis element according to claim 15, wherein said colloidal metal is a colloidal gold or colloidal silver.

Claim 17 (Original): The dry analysis element according to claim 13, wherein said non-fluid substance is a saccharide and said solation agent is a glucosidase.

Claim 18 (Original): The dry analysis element according to claim 13, wherein said non-fluid substance is a polysaccharide and said solation agent is a glucosidase.

Claim 19 (Original): The dry analysis element according to claim 18, wherein said polysaccharide is a starch derivative.

Claim 20 (Original): The analysis element of claim 13, wherein said water permeable layer is composed of a porous medium.